STRIDER 飛竜

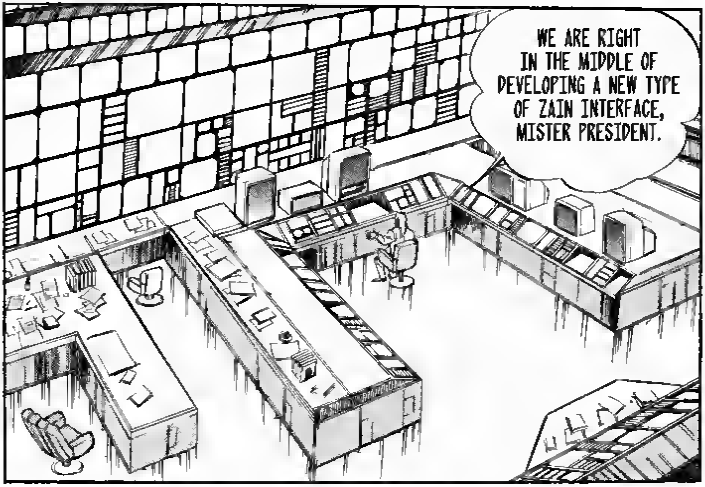
TATSUMI WADA

CHAPTER 3

COMING THIS SUMMER
AS A VIDEO GAME FROM CAPCOM!!

IN A BLAZE OF ANGER,
HIRYU RISES UP!

KAZAKH FEDERATION STATE MENTAL HOSPITAL



...WITH THIS, WE WILL BE ABLE TO FIRE IT FROM A GAS GUN.
UP UNTIL NOW, THE INTERFACE DEVICE HAS BEEN SURGICALLY IMPLANTED INTO THE HUMAN BODY, BUT...
IT IS AN IMPROVEMENT ON THE "BULLET" DESIGN.
HMMM...
CORPORATE PRESIDENT FAYSUS CLAY
WHEN THE INTERFACE IS FIRED INTO THE BODY, THE SUBJECT'S BRAINWAVES WILL BE REPLACED WITH RADIO WAVES FROM ZAIN, CAUSING HALLUCINATIONS.
HOW DOES IT WORK?

IT BEGINS WITH A SENSE OF ISOLATION, AS THE SUBJECT STARTS TO FEEL LEFT OUT AND ALIENATED...
CHITTER
CHATTER
BEFORE LONG, HE WILL REACH A POINT WHERE HE FEELS THAT EVERYONE IS PLOTTING TO KILL HIM.
THE FEELING WILL HAUNT THE SUBJECT CONSTANTLY.
THE DELUSIONS WILL CAUSE SEVERE ANXIETY, WHICH WILL PRESENT ITSELF IN A NUMBER OF WAYS.
ON THE SURFACE HE WILL SEEM FINE, BUT DEEP IN HIS HEART HE WILL FEEL THREATENED AND HATEFUL, EVEN TOWARDS RELATIVES AND CLOSE FRIENDS.
EVENTUALLY, THIS FEAR TURNS INTO ANGER, WHICH LEADS TO SUCH A VIOLENT RAGE THAT THE SUBJECT FEELS COMPELLED TOWARDS ACTS OF MASSACRE AND DESTRUCTION...
HUMAN BEINGS HAVE SUCH A DESTRUCTIVE FIGHTING SPIRIT!
GLARE
AREN'T YOU ABLE TO CONTROL IT?

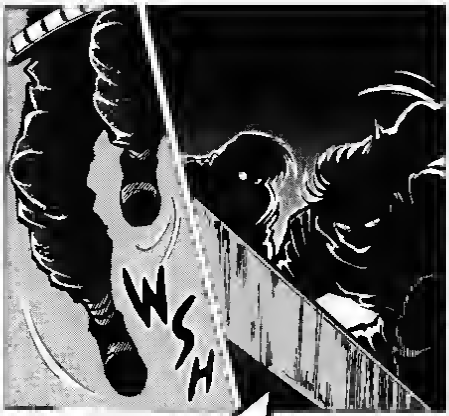
ARE WE NUMANS JUST "DEFECTIVE GOODS" FROM GOD?
WE HAVE TO BE RESOLUTE IN COMPLETING THE WORK THAT GOD LEFT UNFINISHED.
WELL, AT THIS TIME...
THESE "VIOLENT CELLS" WILL BE THE END OF HUMANITY, IT SEEMS.
IF IT CAN'T BE CONTROLLED, HOW ELSE COULD CIVILIZATION HAVE PROGRESSED?
STRIDERS...HM? THEY NOT ONLY MANAGED TO RECOVER THE TEST SUBJECT, BUT ALSO KIDNAPPED THE CHIEF OF THE SECRET POLICE IN THE PROCESS...
WE ARE FULLY INVESTIGATING THE EVENTS RIGHT NOW. PLEASE GIVE US MORE TIME...
HNGH
BY THE WAY, I HEARD THAT ONE OF THE TEST SUBJECTS ESCAPED...
SIR! I MUST APOLOGIZE...

PZZT.
DON'T FORGET YOU SAID THAT!
YES, SIR!!
IT IS FULLY SECURED. THE SOLDIERS GUARDING THIS RESEARCH LAB ARE SECOND TO NONE...
I WILL TAKE THIS UP WITH THE HEAD OF THE STRIDERS. DOES YOUR LOCATION HAVE ADEQUATE SECURITY?
THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF MADE A DIRECT INTERNATIONAL CALL TO YOU. WHAT A GRAND GESTURE...!
STRIDERS, HUH? I'D LIKE TO GO UP AGAINST THEM JUST ONCE!

HMPH... WHAT A PITY...!
KREAK
NOT EVEN THE KAZAKH GOVERNMENT'S TOP BRASS KNOW OUR LOCATION...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. THIS RESEARCH INSTITUTE IS COMPLETELY HIDDEN.
SO, THERE'S NO WAY OUR ENEMIES COULD POSSIBLY FIND THIS PLACE, COMMANDER KEITH!
WHAM
IT'S THE CHIEF! HE'S RIGHT INSIDE THE HOSPITAL ENTRANCE!!

THE STRIDERS ARE HERE!
CRAPPY LAYOUT BY CAIN
NNGHH
NNGF
IT... IT'S NOT POSSIBLE...
THE STRIDERS ARE HERE!
CRAPPY LAYOUT BY CAIN
THEY COULDN'T HAVE FOUND THIS PLACE! IT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE!

FWSH
SNAP
LEAVE THIS TO ME.
THIS WAS JUST A DIVERSION, THERE'S NO USE IN RESPONDING! THEY'RE ALREADY INSIDE!
I GOT YA! DON'T YOU FORGET THAT I'M THE ONE IN CHARGE OF THE SPECIAL FORCES.
YOU *MUST NOT* FIRE ANY WEAPONS IN HERE!
COMMANDER KEITH, THIS RESEARCH INSTITUTE IS *FULL* OF EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS AND EXPENSIVE PRECISION EQUIPMENT.

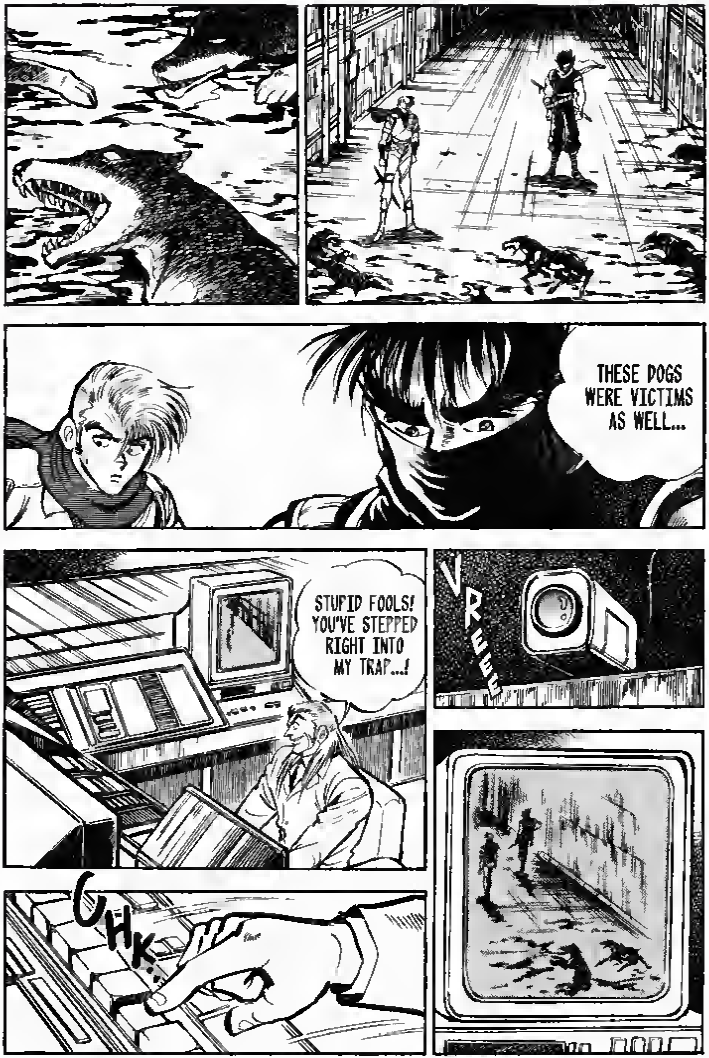

WSH

SHNK.

GLINT
THERE'S SOMETHING HERE...!
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE SURROUNDED, HIRYU!
SHING...
WASSH

WHMP
A DOBERMAN!!
WAM

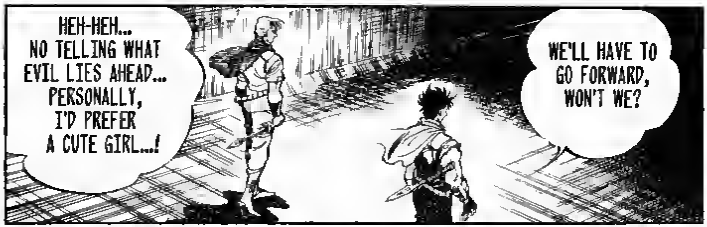
THEY MUST HAVE USED ZAIN TO TURN THEM INTO VICIOUS ATTACK DOGS.
HIRYU, THESE ARE NO ORDINARY DOGS!
FWSSSH
KRAK
WHAK
I SEE!
WHAM
KRAK
DOOM


THESE DOGS WERE VICTIMS AS WELL...
STUPID FOOLS! YOU'VE STEPPED RIGHT INTO MY TRAP...!
VREEE
UHK...

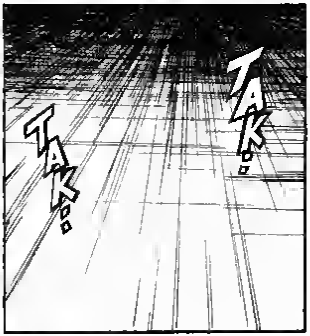
GRRRN
GA
GR
N
THEY FOUND US!!
DAMN IT! THE DOGS WERE JUST A DECOY!
KSSSH
WAM

KRWWW...
KRWW.
COMMANDER KEITH! THEY'RE TRAPPED IN AREA F-5!
GO GET THEM!
HEH-HEH... WE'RE SAFE!
KLAK
KNAK
KREEE...
I WON'T LET THEM LAY A FINGER ON YOU!
JUST RELAX AND SLEEP WELL...
ZAIN

.....
.....
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO, HIRYU?
LOOKS LIKE WE DID EXACTLY WHAT THEY EXPECTED.


HEH-HEH... NO TELLING WHAT EVIL LIES AHEAD... PERSONALLY, I'D PREFER A CUTE GIRL...!
WE'LL HAVE TO GO FORWARD, WON'T WE?

HMM.
SOMEONE'S COMING...


TAK.
TAK.

BWAAAAAH
Z15
Z5
Z6
Z32

HIRYU! THEY'RE ZAIN!!
!!

GWAAH...
FWSSSSHHH

KA
ING
UNH!
CAIN! WATCH OUT!
THEY'VE GOT US SURROUNDED!
GEEZ..
SHF

SKSH
SKSH
WHAT THE HELL?! THIS ISN'T GOOD AT ALL!
IF YOU'RE RIGHT AND WE'RE TOTALLY SURROUNDED, WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT OUR WAY THROUGH ALL THESE GUYS!!
THEY... THEY'RE EVEN USING LITTLE KIDS AS TEST SUBJECTS!!

I WON'T ALLOW THIS!
GRRRAH!!

THMP
OUTTA THE WAY!
FLIP
FWSH
BWSH
THERE YOU ARE!!
UH!
FWSH
HIRYU!!
CLASHING

CHOKT
UWAH!!
HNG!
P... PLEASE, SOMEBODY SAVE ME~!!

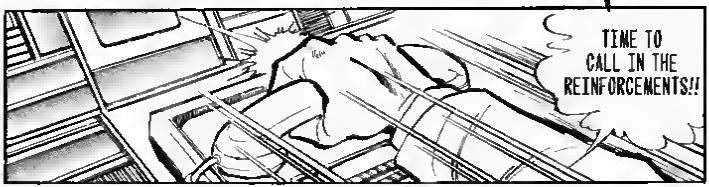
PLIP
PLIP
GAH!!
WHISH
AAAGH!
WHOO... WHEN HE GETS MAD, HE TURNS INTO A REAL DEMON!
EVEN I'M SHIVERING JUST FROM WATCHING THIS.

KRMBL
KRMBL
KRMBL
BRRR
DAD
DAD
DA
DA
EH-
HEH-HEH...
OH,
REALLY?
SPW
BUT I'M
DIFFERENT FROM
THOSE OTHER
GRUNTS!
JUST WHAT
I'D EXPECT
FROM A STRIDER!

OOPS...
GWAH!!
THNK
NO...
NO WAY...
YOU'RE STILL SLOW, LIKE ALL THE OTHERS.
YOU'RE NOT ALL THAT DIFFERENT... JUST BIGGER.

TH... THIS WON'T BE A PROBLEM.
THEY'RE MONSTERS!

WHIMP


TIME TO CALL IN THE REINFORCEMENTS!!

WHAAAH!
BA-
B
M

HO... HOLD ON! HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT ZAIN WOULD BE IN THIS HOSPITAL?
AH... AIEEEE!
ZAIN
P.TK
P.TK
IT LOOKS LIKE THE ZAIN RESEARCH LAB IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR...
THIS FACILITY SEEMED TO BE USING EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF PHONE SERVICE AND ELECTRICITY.
WE CREPT INTO THE PHONE AND ELECTRIC COMPANIES!
FLP
HEH-HEH.....
YOU USED SOMETHING SO TRIVIAL...

ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE STRIDERS ARE SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT...?
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
WHY ARE YOU INTERFERING WITH THE "ZAIN PROJECT?"
BUT WHY?! THE STRIDERS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING AGAINST US. YOU'RE OUR ALLIES IN THIS, AREN'T YOU?
MATIC... HE DID THIS!!
I'M HERE TO DESTROY ZAIN... NOW MOVE IT!
WHAT DOES IT MATTER?

KA-
B
SSSH
BA-
DA-
DA
PLEASE...
STOP-!
AAH...
WHED
WHAT
THE-?!
WHA!!
Kssssh

KREE..
KREE..
KREE..
TH... THAT'S...!

IT'S A GODDAMN MONSTER!
THIS IS ZAIN'S TRUE FORM?!
SERIOUSLY! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING ABOUT THIS CHILD!!
PLEASE STOP! THIS LITTLE ONE HAS BARELY EVEN AWAKENED!
SK
SHK

KRK
CRK
KRKKK
KRKKK
KRAK
FZZT
WHUMP
AH...
AAAH
TH...
THIRTY YEARS
WORTH OF
RESEARCH...
EEE...
HEE
HEE
HEEE....
AAAH
HAA
HA
HA!!
HAS HE
LOST HIS
MIND?
IT'S THE
FATE OF A MAD
SCIENTIST.

ZAIN'S NETWORK STRETCHES ACROSS THE WHOLE WORLD. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW BIG IT REALLY IS.
BA
BOOM
THIS PLACE IS JUST A RELAY STATION FOR ZAIN.
CLUELESS FOOLS... YOU MAY HAVE KILLED ONE OF ZAIN'S CHILDREN, BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER!
HEH HEH...
WAIT!!
WHAT?!
BWAA HA HA HA HA!!
BWOOOH
LONG LIVE THE PRESIDENT!!
URK!
IN THE SAHARA... EVEN IN THE AMAZON.... THERE ARE STILL NUMEROUS RESEARCH STATIONS!!
FTCH

GA-BOOOOM
HOW ARE WE EVER GONNA FIND THE ONES WHO'RE IN CHARGE OF ZAIN?
WE SHOULD GO. THIS BATTLE IS ONLY BEGINNING...

TRANSLATOR'S NOTES:

I STARTED THIS PROJECT TO IMPROVE MY JAPANESE SKILLS, TEST SOME FONTS, AND PRACTICE A FEW DIGITAL EDITING TECHNIQUES. ALL OF THE SOUND EFFECTS WERE HAND-DRAWN IN AN ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE THE FEEL OF THE ORIGINAL VERSION AND CREATE AS PROFESSIONAL OF A PRESENTATION AS POSSIBLE. I HAD CONSIDERED FLIPPING THE PAGES SO THAT THEY WOULD READ FROM LEFT-TO-RIGHT BUT THERE WERE VARIOUS SPOTS WHERE I WASN'T HAPPY WITH WHAT WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE TO THE ARTWORK TO MAKE SOME OF THE MORE ICONIC SYMBOLS WORK PROPERLY. ALSO, GIVEN THE TONE OF THE COMIC, I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE THIS STEP WOULD BE ENTIRELY NECESSARY ON THIS PROJECT.

THE FONTS ARE ALL CUSTOM MADE AND I'M STILL ADJUSTING AND OPTIMIZING THEM. PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR THEM, I WILL RELEASE THEM WHEN I FEEL THEY ARE READY.

MANY THANKS GO TO THE STRIDER CITADEL AND THE LIGHT SWORD CYPHER MAINFRAME FOR THEIR HELP IN CHECKING MY TRANSLATIONS.

CHAPTER 3 TRANSLATION NOTES:

WHILE THE SCIENTIST'S TECHNO-BABBLE IN THIS CHAPTER TOOK SOME TIME TO TRANSLATE, THE REAL DIFFICULTY CAME IN GETTING A PROPER TRANSLATION OF PRESIDENT CLAY'S FIRST NAME. THE JAPANESE TEXT HAD HIS NAME AS "フェイサス・クレイ" WHICH DOES NOT PROPERLY TRANSLATE TO THE "FACEAS CLAY" NAME HE WAS GIVEN IN THE ENGRISHY GAME TRANSLATION SINCE THIS SPELLING WOULD IMPLY A LONG "E" SOUND. IT'S NOT A PROPER NAME BUT IT IS THE JAPANESE PRONUNCIATION OF THE ENGLISH WORDS "FACE US" AND WAS USED AS THE NAME FOR A MAILBOX CALLED THE "FĀSSUS" AS WELL AS THE PROPOSED TITLE OF A "TALES OF..." SERIES GAME CALLED "TALES OF FAITHUS." I USED THESE SOURCES TO COME UP WITH THE NAME "FAYSUS," WHICH MORE CLOSELY FITS THE ORIGINAL INTENT. AS A SIDE NOTE, PRESIDENT CLAY IS THE ONLY CHARACTER IN THE MANGA TO HAVE BOTH A FIRST AND LAST NAME INDICATED. HIS INITIALS, *F.C.*, ARE THE SAME INITIALS USED ON THE JAPANESE FAMILY COMPUTER, OR FAMICON, ON WHICH THE GAME WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO BE RELEASED.

THIS IS A FAN-PRODUCED SCANSLATION AND IT IS NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OR SOLD FOR PROFIT OF ANY KIND. DO NOT UPLOAD THESE IMAGES TO ANY OTHER SITES, INCLUDING ONLINE MANGA ARCHIVE SITES, WITHOUT PERMISSION.
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- KAIJIN